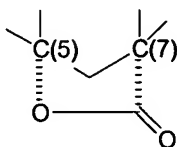


IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-58 (cancelled).

Claim 59 (presently amended): A process for the preparation of a 4,5-dihydro-5,7-lactone steroid compound, said lactone steroid being substituted with keto or dialkoxy at the 3-carbon, and comprising the moiety:



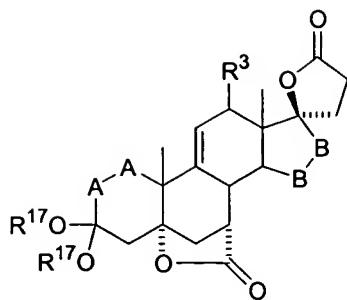
where C(5) represents the 5-carbon and C(7) represents the 7-carbon of the steroid structure of the lactone compound,
the process comprising:

converting a 7-cyano substituted steroid to the corresponding 7-carboxylic acid substituted steroid, and thereafter converting the 7-carboxylic acid substituted steroid to the corresponding 5,7-lactone substituted steroid.

Claim 60 (presently amended): A process as set forth in claim 59 wherein the 7-carboxylic acid substituted steroid substrate comprises a 3-keto- Δ -4,5-7-carboxy steroid, and a ketal intermediate comprising a 3-dialkoxy-5,7-lactone is formed, said 3-dialkoxy-5,7-lactone being hydrolyzed under the acidic conditions to form the 3-keto-5,7-lactone.

Claims 61-62 (cancelled).

Claim 63 (previously amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to Formula E:



E

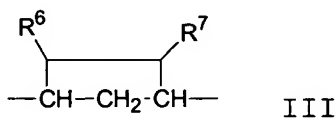
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

R^{17} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:

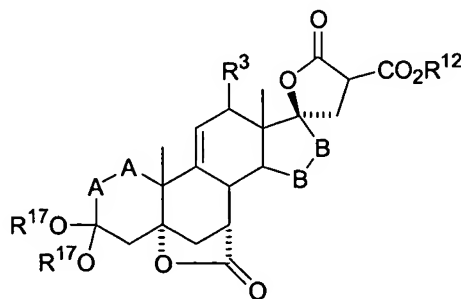


III

where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl and cyano and aryloxy;

the process comprising:

thermally decomposing a compound corresponding to Formula DE2 in the presence of an alkali metal halide, said compound of Formula DE2 having the structure:

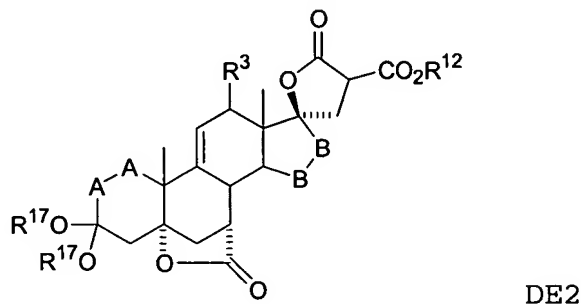


DE2

wherein R^{12} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl, and -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3 and R^{17}

are as defined above.

Claim 64 (previously amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to Formula DE2:



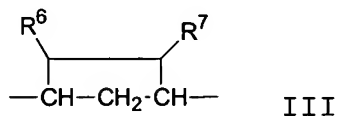
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

R^{12} and R^{17} are independently selected from among C_1 to C_4 alkyl; and

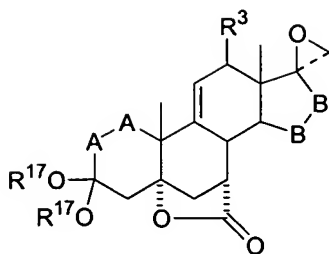
-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

the process comprising:

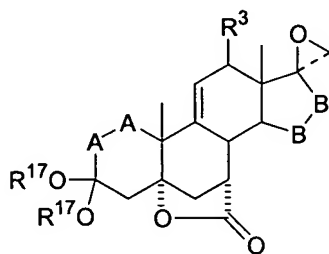
condensing a compound of Formula DE1 with a dialkyl malonate in the presence of a base, said compound of Formula DE1 having the structure:



DE1

wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3 and R^{17} are as defined above.

Claim 65 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to Formula DE1:



DE1

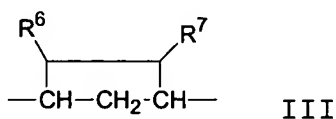
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

R^{17} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



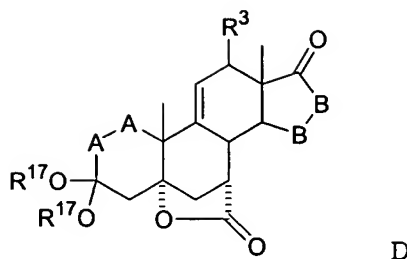
III

where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

the process comprising:

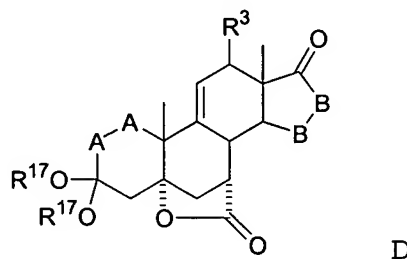
reacting a compound of Formula D with a sulfonium ylide in the presence of a base, said compound of Formula D having the

structure:



wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3 and R^{17} are as defined above.

Claim 66 (previously amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to Formula D:



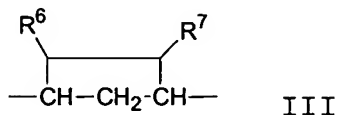
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

R^{17} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:

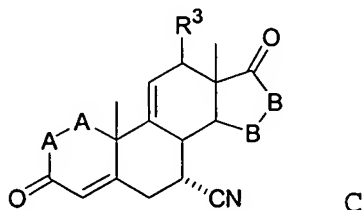


where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxyalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

the process comprising:

hydrolysis of a compound of Formula C to the 7 α -carboxylic

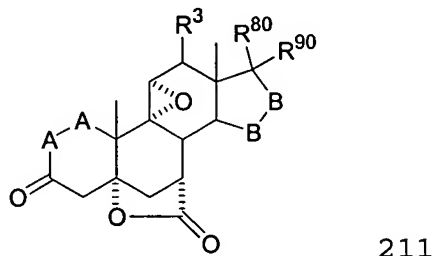
acid and reaction under acidic conditions with a trialkyl orthoformate, the compound of Formula C having the structure:



wherein -A-A-, -B-B- and R^3 are as defined above.

Claims 67-68 (cancelled).

Claim 69 (previously amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to Formula 211:

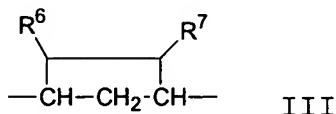


wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



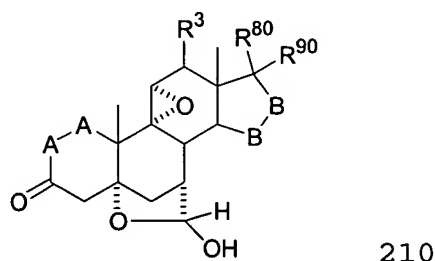
where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

R^{80} and R^{90} are independently selected from R^8 and R^9 , respectively or R^{80} and R^{90} together form keto;

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, [hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl] hydroxycarbonylalkyl, [alkoxycarbonyl] alkoxycarbonylalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy, or R^8 and R^9 together comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R^8 or R^9 together with R^6 or R^7 comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring;

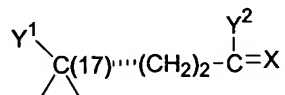
the process comprising:

oxidizing a compound of Formula 210, said compound of Formula 210 having the structure



where -A-A-, -B-B-, R^3 , R^{80} and R^{90} are as defined above.

Claim 70 (currently amended): A process as set forth in claim 69 wherein ~~R^8 and R^9~~ R^{80} and R^{90} together with C(17) comprise



where X represents two hydrogen atoms, oxo or =S;

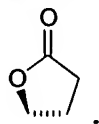
Y^1 and Y^2 together represent the oxygen bridge -O-, or

Y^1 represents hydroxy, and

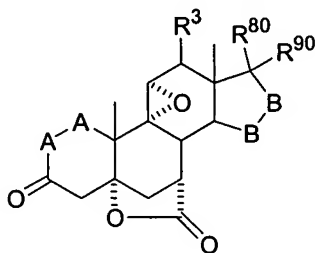
Y^2 represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy or, if X represents H_2 , also lower alkanoyloxy.

Claim 71 (currently amended): A process as set forth in claim 70

wherein ~~R⁸ and R⁹~~ R⁸⁰ and R⁹⁰ together with C(17) comprise



Claim 72 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to the Formula A211:



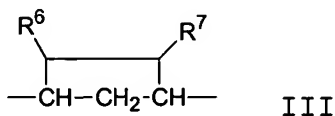
A211

wherein

-A-A- represents the group -CHR⁴-CHR⁵- or -CR⁴=CR⁵-;

R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

-B-B- represents the group -CHR⁶-CHR⁷- or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



III

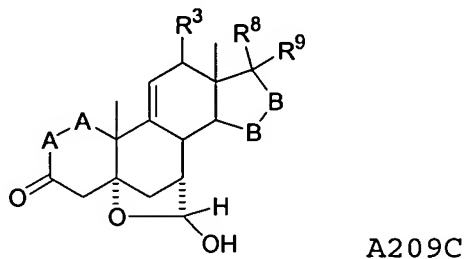
where R⁶ and R⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, [hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl] hydroxycarbonylalkyl, [alkoxycarbonyl] alkoxycarbonylalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy, or R⁸ and R⁹ together comprise a

carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R⁸ or R⁹ together with R⁶ or R⁷ comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring;

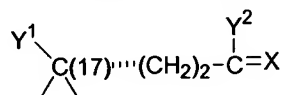
the process comprising:

reacting a 3-keto-5,7-hemiacetal intermediate of Formula A209C with a peroxide oxidizing reagent, said compound of Formula A209C corresponding to the formula:



wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R³, R⁸ and R⁹ are as defined above.

Claim 73 (currently amended): A process as set forth in claim 72 wherein ~~R⁸ and R⁹~~ R⁸⁰ and R⁹⁰ together with C(17) comprise



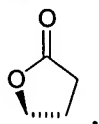
where X represents two hydrogen atoms, oxo or =S;

Y¹ and Y² together represent the oxygen bridge -O-, or

Y¹ represents hydroxy, and

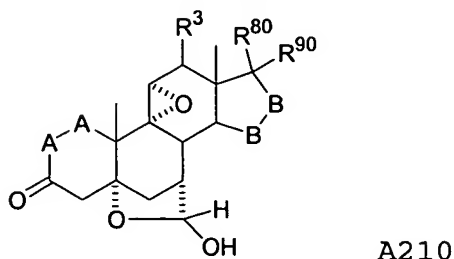
Y² represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy or, if X represents H₂, also lower alkanoyloxy.

Claim 74 (currently amended): A process as set forth in claim 73 wherein ~~R⁸ and R⁹~~ R⁸⁰ and R⁹⁰ together with C(17) comprise



Claim 75 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a

compound corresponding to the Formula **A210**:

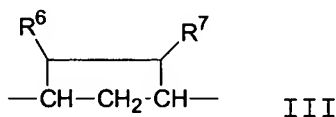


wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

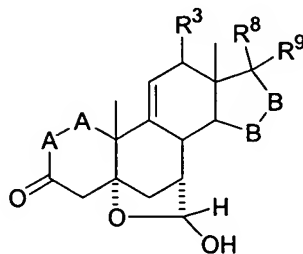
R^{80} and R^{90} are independently selected from R^8 and R^9 , respectively, or R^{80} and R^{90} together form keto;

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy, or R^8 and R^9 together comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R^8 or R^9 together with R^6 or R^7 comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring;

the process comprising:

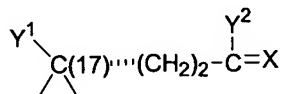
reacting a 3-keto-5,7-hemiacetal intermediate of Formula

A209C with a peroxide oxidizing reagent, said compound of Formula A209C corresponding to the formula:



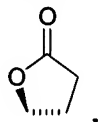
wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, R³, R⁸ and R⁹ are as defined above.

Claim 76 (currently amended): A process as set forth in claim 75 wherein ~~R⁸ and R⁹~~ R⁸⁰ and R⁹⁰ together with C(17) comprise

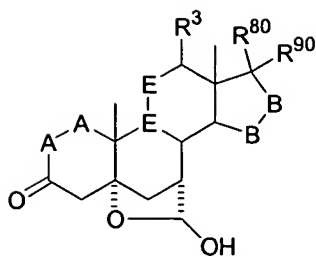


where X represents two hydrogen atoms, oxo or =S;
Y¹ and Y² together represent the oxygen bridge -O-, or
Y¹ represents hydroxy, and
Y² represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy or, if X represents H₂, also lower alkanoyloxy.

Claim 77 (currently amended): A process as set forth in claim 76 wherein ~~R⁸ and R⁹~~ R⁸⁰ and R⁹⁰ together with C(17) comprise



Claim 78 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to the Formula A209:



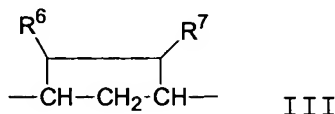
A209

wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



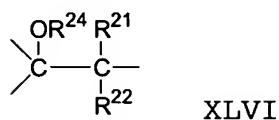
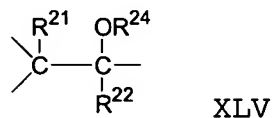
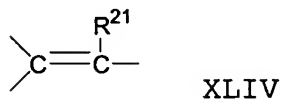
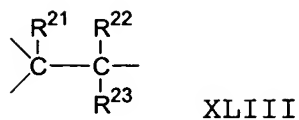
III

where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

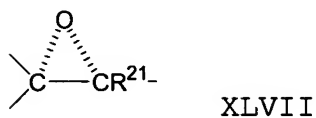
R^{80} and R^{90} are independently selected from R^8 and R^9 , respectively, or R^{80} and R^{90} together form keto;

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, hydroxycarbonylalkyl, [alkoxycarbonyl] alkoxycarbonylalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy, or R^8 and R^9 together comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R^8 or R^9 together with R^6 or R^7 comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring;

and -E-E- is selected from among:



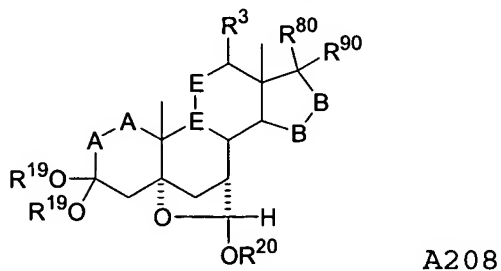
and



where R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano; and R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl;

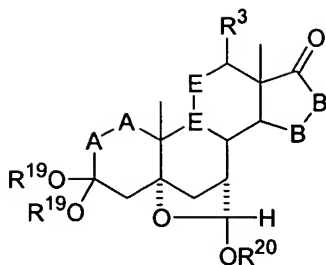
the process comprising:

hydrolyzing a compound corresponding to the Formula A208



wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, -E-E-, R^3 , R^{80} and R^{90} are as defined above; R^{19} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $[R^{18}O-]$ $R^{19}O-$ groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge; and R^{20} is C_1 - C_4 alkyl.

Claim 79 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to Formula A205:



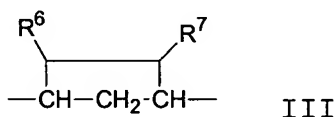
A205

wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



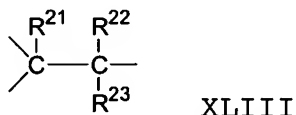
III

where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

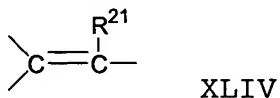
R^{19} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $[\text{R}^{18}\text{O}-]$ $\text{R}^{19}\text{O}-$ groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge; and

R^{20} is C_1 - C_4 alkyl; and

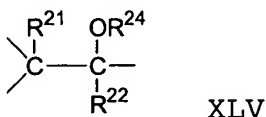
wherein -E-E- is selected from among:



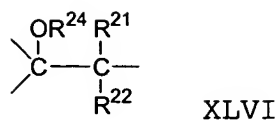
XLIII



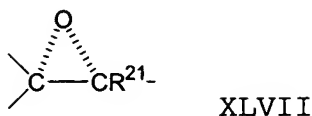
XLIV



XLV



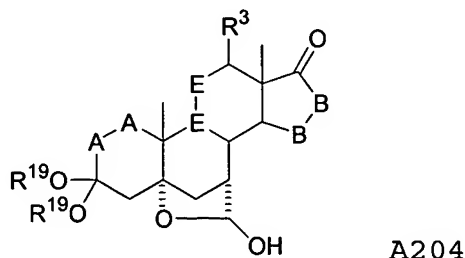
and



where R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano; R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl;

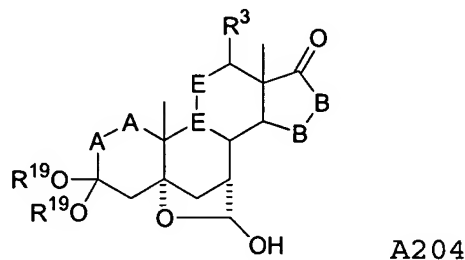
the process comprising:

reacting a compound corresponding to Formula A204 with a lower alcohol and an acid, said compound of Formula A204 having the structure:



wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, -E-E-, R^3 , and R^{19} are as defined above.

Claim 80 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to Formula A204:



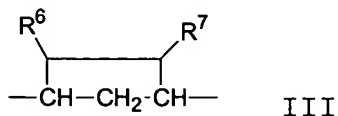
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group

consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano aryloxy;

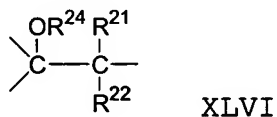
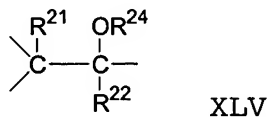
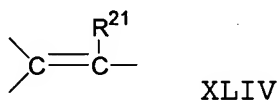
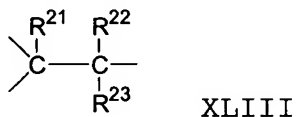
-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



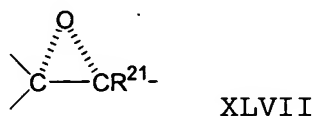
where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

R^{19} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $\text{R}^{19}\text{O}-$ groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge;

wherein -E-E- is selected from among:



and

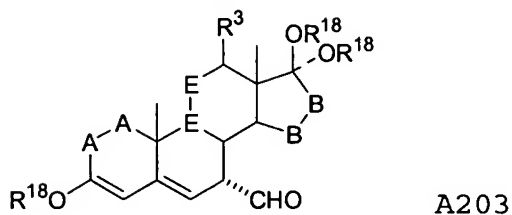


where R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano; and R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl;

the process comprising:

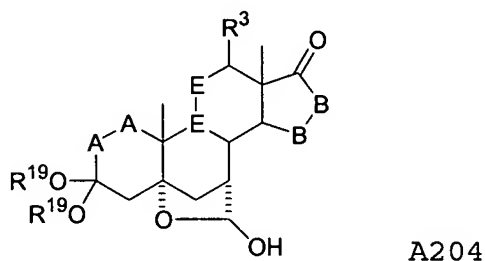
hydrolyzing compound corresponding to Formula A203, said

compound of Formula A203 having the structure:



wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, -E-E- and R^3 are as defined above, and R^{18} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $R^{18}O$ - groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge.

Claim 81 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to Formula A204:

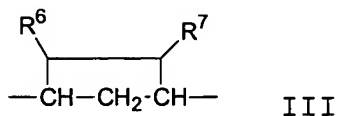


wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-CHR^4-CHR^5-$ or $-CR^4=CR^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

-B-B- represents the group $-CHR^6-CHR^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:

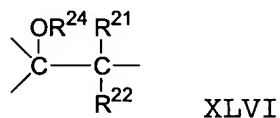
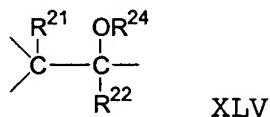
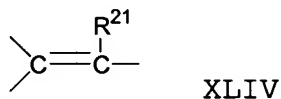
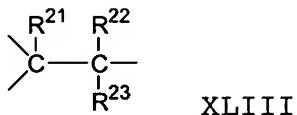


where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxyalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

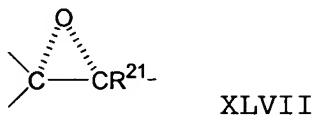
R^{19} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $R^{19}O$ - groups together form an

O,O-oxyalkylene bridge; and

wherein -E-E- is selected from among:



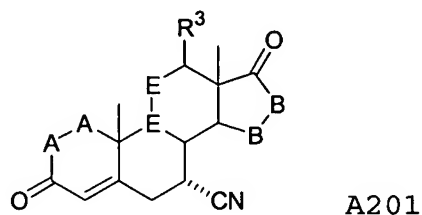
and



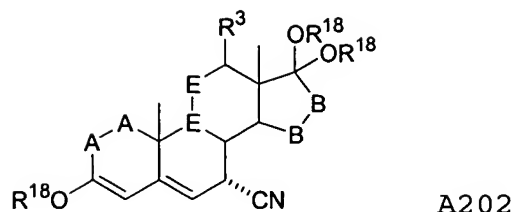
where R^{18} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $\text{R}^{18}\text{O}-$ groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge; R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano; and R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl;

the process comprising:

protecting the keto substituents of a compound corresponding to Formula A201 by reaction with alkanol under acid condition in the presence of orthoformate, said compound of Formula A201 having the structure:



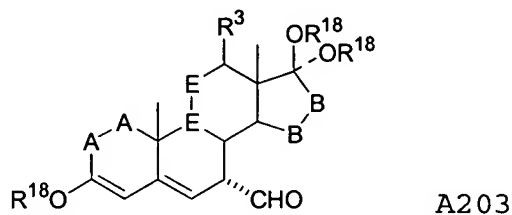
wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, -E-E- and R^3 , are as defined above, thereby producing a 3-enol ether intermediate corresponding to Formula A202:



wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, -E-E- and R³ are as defined above, and R¹⁸ is C₁ to C₄ alkyl or the R¹⁸O- groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge; and

reducing said compound of Formula A202.

Claim 82 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound corresponding to the formula A203:

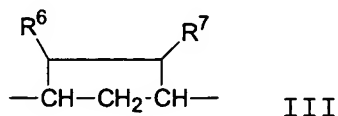


wherein

-A-A- represents the group -CHR⁴-CHR⁵- or -CR⁴=CR⁵-;

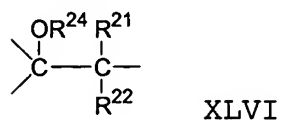
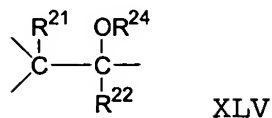
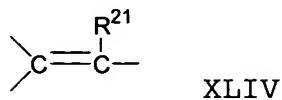
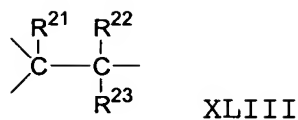
R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

-B-B- represents the group -CHR⁶-CHR⁷- or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:

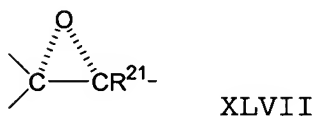


where R⁶ and R⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

wherein -E-E- is selected from among:



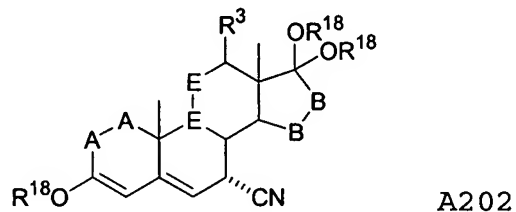
and



where R^{18} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $R^{18}O$ - groups at C-17 together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge; R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano; and R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl;

the process comprising:

reducing a compound corresponding to Formula A202:

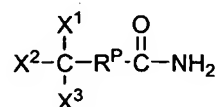


wherein -A-A-, -B-B-, -E-E-, R^3 , and R^{18} are as defined above.

Claims 83-92 (cancelled).

Claim 93 (previously amended): A process for the formation of an epoxy compound comprising contacting a substrate compound having

an olefinic double bond with a peroxide compound in the presence of a peroxide activator, wherein said peroxide activator is chlorodifluoroacetamide or corresponds to a compound having to the formula



wherein

R^{P} is selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkynyl and $-(\text{CX}^4\text{X}^5)_2-$;

X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 and X^5 are independently selected from among halo, hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl and cyano and cyanoalkyl; and provided that at least one of X^4 and X^5 is halo.

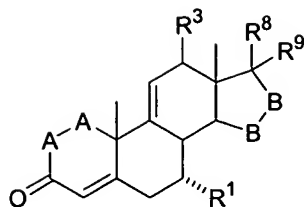
Claim 94 (previously amended): A process as set forth in claim 93 wherein and at least two of X^1 , X^2 and X^3 are halo or perhaloalkyl.

Claim 95 (previously amended): A process as set forth in claim 93 wherein all of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 and X^5 are halo or perhaloalkyl.

Claims 96-97. (cancelled)

Claim 98 (previously amended): A process as set forth in claim 93 wherein said peroxide activator is selected from the group consisting of chlorodifluoroacetamide and heptafluorobutyramide.

Claim 99 (previously amended): A process as set forth in claim 93 wherein said substrate compound corresponds to the Formula:



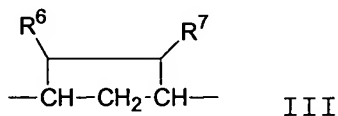
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxy carbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

R^1 represents an alpha-oriented lower alkoxy carbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl radical;

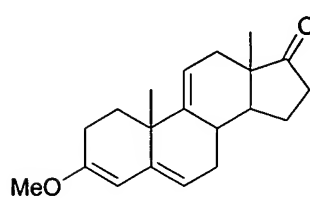
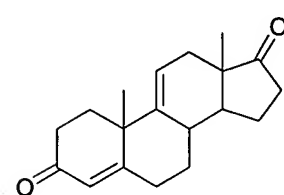
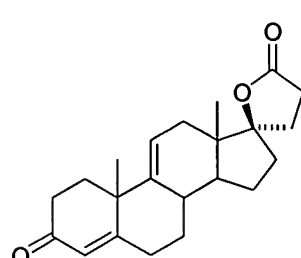
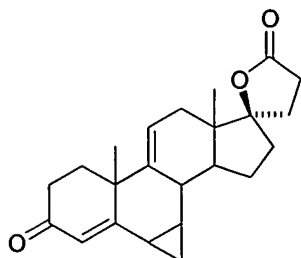
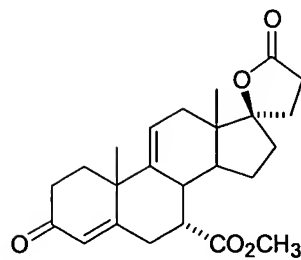
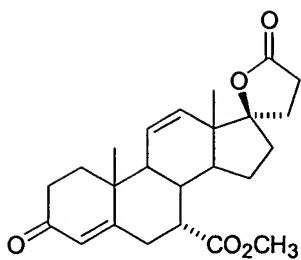
-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



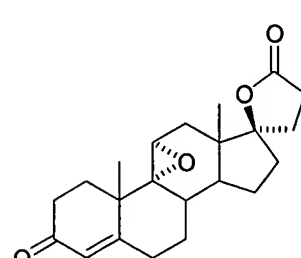
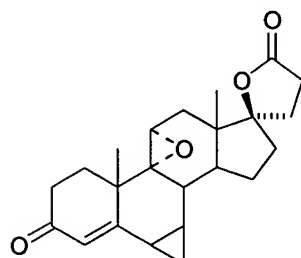
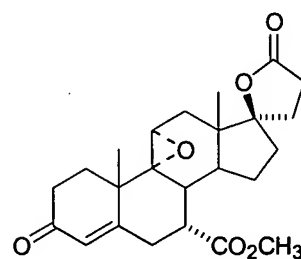
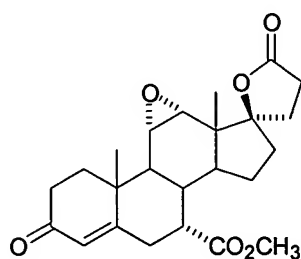
where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

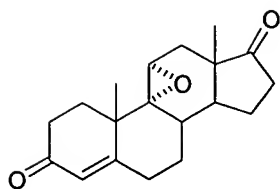
R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, [hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl], hydroxycarbonylalkyl, [alkoxy carbonyl], alkoxy carbonylalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy, or R^8 and R^9 together comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R^8 or R^9 together with R^6 or R^7 comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring.

Claim 100 (previously amended): A process as set forth in claim 93 wherein said substrate compound is selected from the group consisting of:

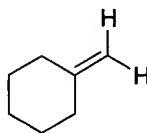
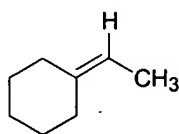
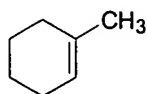
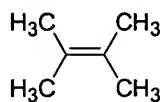
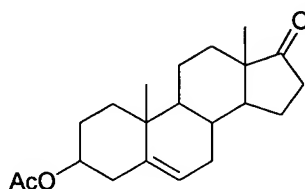


and a product of the epoxidation reaction is selected from the group consisting of:

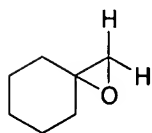
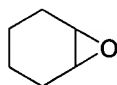
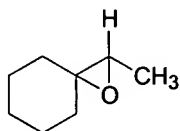
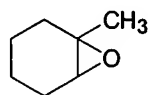
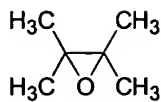
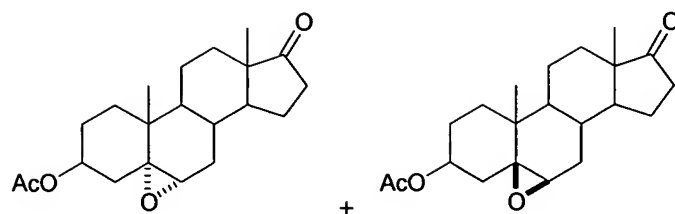




Claim 101 (previously amended): A process as set forth in claim 93 wherein said substrate compound is selected from the group consisting of:

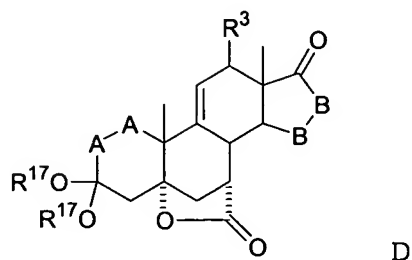


and a product of the epoxidation reaction is selected from the group consisting of:



Claim 102-140 (cancelled).

Claim 141 (previously amended): A compound corresponding to
Formula D:



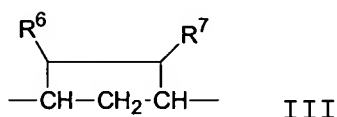
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

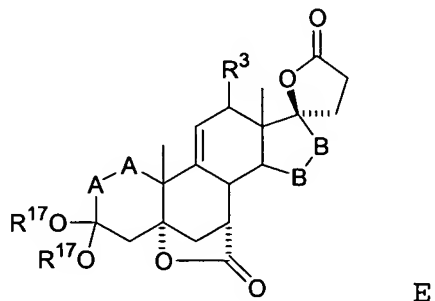
R^{17} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy.

Claim 142 (previously amended): A compound corresponding to Formula E:



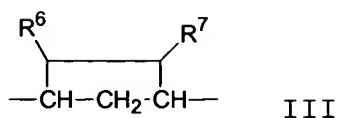
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

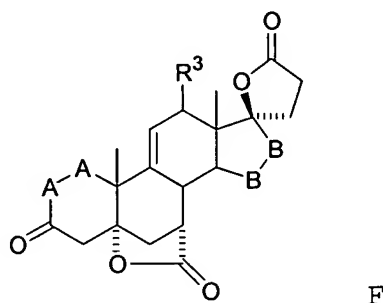
R^{17} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy.

Claim 143 (previously amended): A compound corresponding to Formula F:

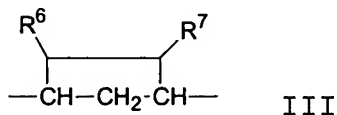


wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

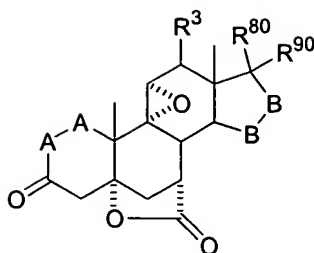
-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy.

Claim 144 (currently amended): A compound corresponding to

Formula A211:



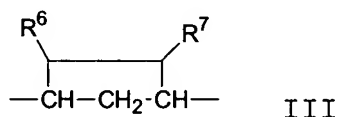
A211

wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



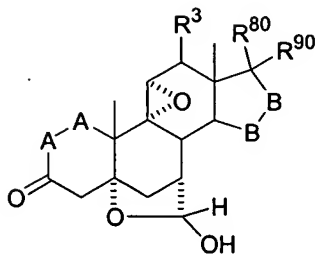
III

where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

R^{80} and R^{90} are independently selected from R^8 and R^9 , respectively or R^{80} and R^{90} together form keto; and

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, [hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl], hydroxycarbonylalkyl, [alkoxycarbonyl] alkoxycarbonylalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy, or R^8 and R^9 together comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R^8 or R^9 together with R^6 or R^7 comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring.

Claim 145 (currently amended): A compound corresponding to
Formula A210:



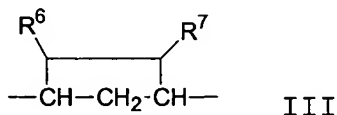
210

wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



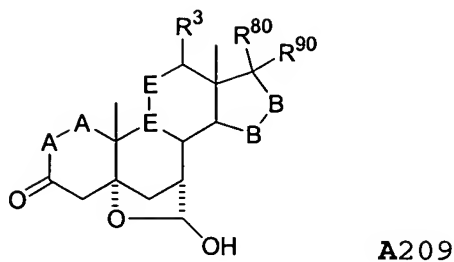
III

where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

R^{80} and R^{90} are independently selected from R^8 and R^9 , respectively, or R^{80} and R^{90} together form keto; and

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, **[hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl]** **hydroxycarbonylalkyl**, **[alkoxycarbonyl] alkoxycarbonylalkyl**, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy, or R^8 and R^9 together comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R^8 or R^9 together with R^6 or R^7 comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring.

Claim 146 (currently amended): A compound corresponding to
Formula A209:

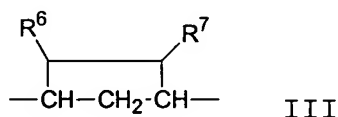


wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

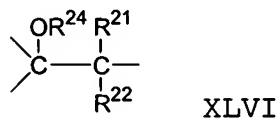
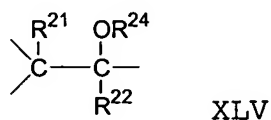
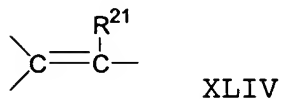
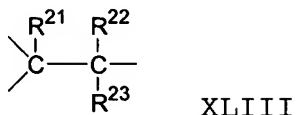
R^{80} and R^{90} are independently selected from R^8 and R^9 , respectively, or R^{80} and R^{90} together form keto;

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, [hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl]

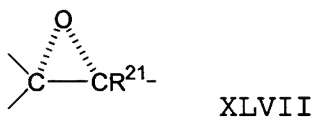
hydroxycarbonylalkyl, [alkoxycarbonyl] alkoxycarbonylalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy, or R^8 and R^9 together comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R^8 or R^9 together with R^6 or R^7 comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring

structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring; and

-E-E- is selected from among:



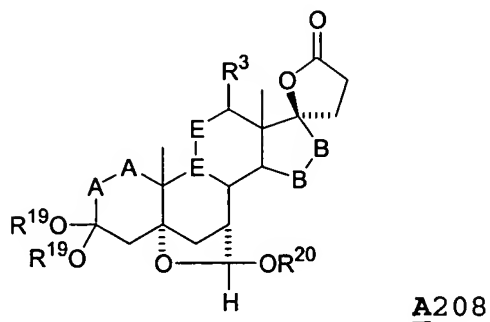
and



where R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano; and

R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl.

Claim 147 (currently amended): A compound corresponding to Formula A208:



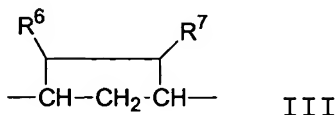
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy,

hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

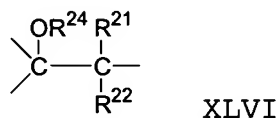
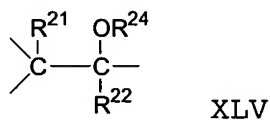
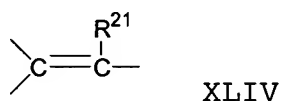
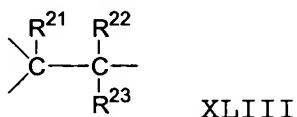
-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



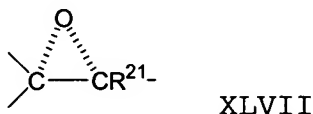
where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

R^{20} is C_1 - C_4 alkyl; and

-E-E- is selected from among:



and



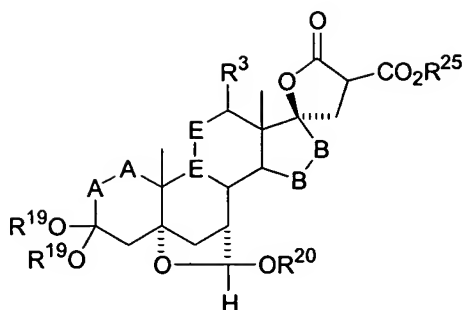
where R^{19} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $\text{R}^{18}\text{O}-$ groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge;

R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano; and

R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl.

Claim 148 (currently amended): A compound corresponding to

Formula A207:



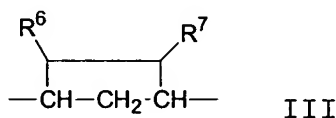
A207

wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

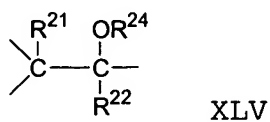
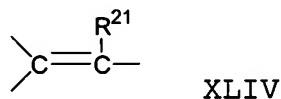
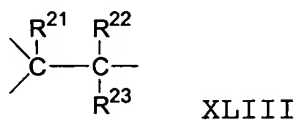
-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:

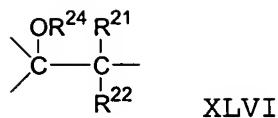


where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

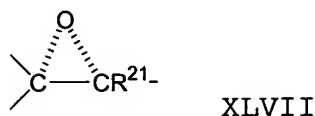
R^{20} is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl; and

-E-E- is selected from among:





and



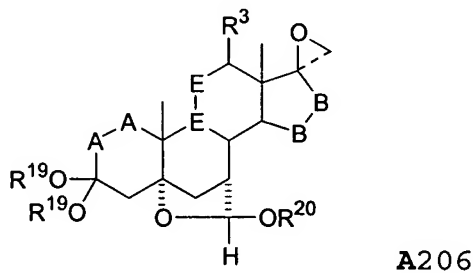
where R¹⁹ is C₁ to C₄ alkyl or the R¹⁸O- groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge;

R²¹, R²² and R²³ are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano;

R²⁴ is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl; and

R²⁵ is C₁ to C₄ alkyl.

Claim 149 (currently amended): A compound corresponding to Formula A206:

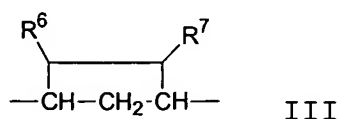


wherein

-A-A- represents the group -CHR⁴-CHR⁵- or -CR⁴=CR⁵-;

R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

-B-B- represents the group -CHR⁶-CHR⁷- or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:

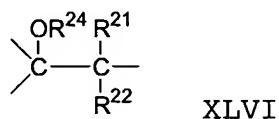
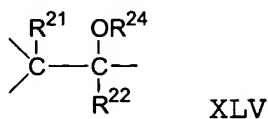
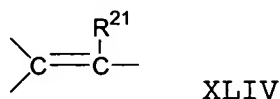
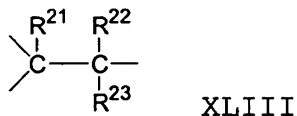


where R⁶ and R⁷ are independently selected from the group

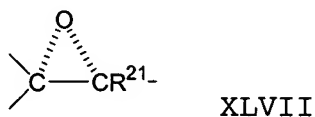
consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy;

R^{20} is C_1 - C_4 alkyl; and

-E-E- is selected from among:



and

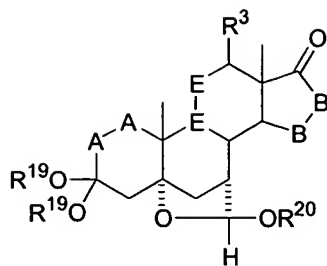


where R^{19} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $R^{18}O$ - groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge;

R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano;

R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl.

Claim 150 (currently amended): A compound corresponding to Formula A205:



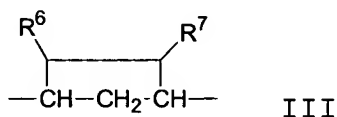
A205

wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:

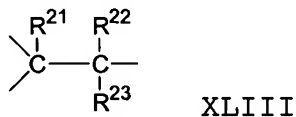


III

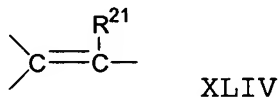
where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

R^{19} ~~and~~ R^{20} is ~~are independently~~ selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

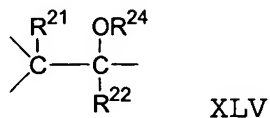
-E-E- is selected from among:



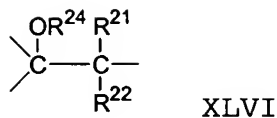
XLIII



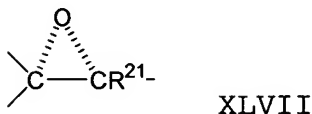
XLIV



XLV



and

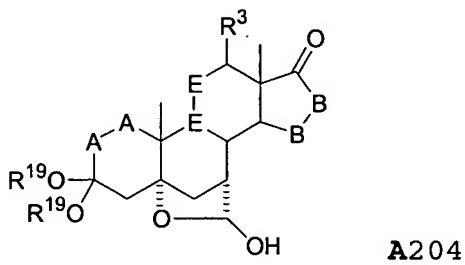


where R^{19} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $[R^{18}O-]$ $R^{19}O-$ groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge;

R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano;

R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl.

Claim 151 (currently amended): A compound corresponding to Formula A204:

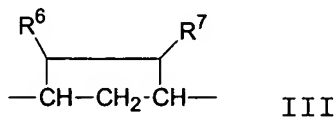


wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-CHR^4-CHR^5-$ or $-CR^4=CR^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

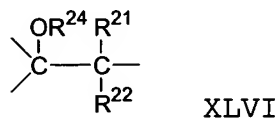
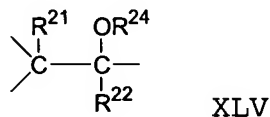
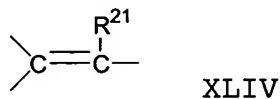
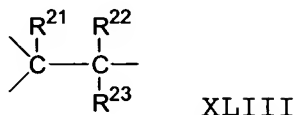
-B-B- represents the group $-CHR^6-CHR^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



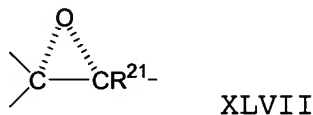
where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl,

acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

-E-E- is selected from among:



and

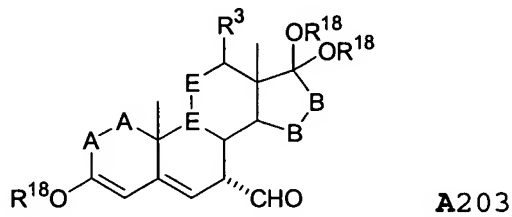


where $[\text{R}^{18}] \text{R}^{19}$ is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $[\text{R}^{18}\text{O}-] \text{R}^{19}\text{O}-$ groups together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge;

R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano;

R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl.

Claim 152 (currently amended): A compound corresponding to Formula A203:



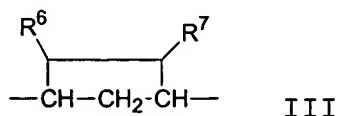
wherein

-A-A- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^4-\text{CHR}^5-$ or $-\text{CR}^4=\text{CR}^5-$;

R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group

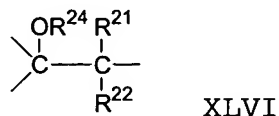
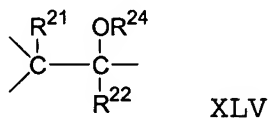
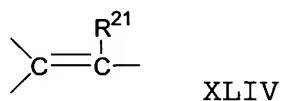
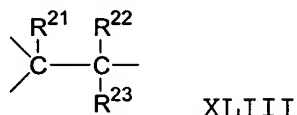
consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano and aryloxy;

-B-B- represents the group $-\text{CHR}^6-\text{CHR}^7-$ or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:

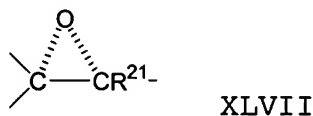


where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano and aryloxy; and

-E-E- is selected from among:



and



where R^{18} is C_1 to C_4 alkyl or the $\text{R}^{18}\text{O}-$ groups at C-17 together form an O,O-oxyalkylene bridge;

R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from among hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, and cyano;

R^{24} is selected from among hydrogen and lower alkyl.